

To the Director of the Office of Child Care

THE FSST TRIBAL CHILD CARE PROGRAM CHILD CARE NEEDS AS A RESULT OF

COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Child Care Program (TCCP) has and will continue to maintain the continuity of services for low-income Native families in our service area, we now offer child care services for \$0.00 co-pay to essential employees-healthcare workers, grocery store staff, emergency responders and sanitation workers, as instructed in the CARES ACT to help provide economic security to those essential employees.

Yes, our community's main employer the Royal River Casino (RRC) a tribally owned gaming facility closed due to covid April 1st 2020 – May 22, 2020 along with Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal (FSST) Headquarters closed from April 1st 2020 – May 22, 2020 due to COVID-19. The RRC and the FSST Headquarters kept on a minimum of essential casino/tribal workers to keep the basic operations afloat during that time. Yes during that time we have program participants struggling to pay the co-payments if they didn't make the essential worker cut from the RRC and FSST offices closures.

We currently only have three SD state licensed family home child care providers working with our program, with no tribally operated center. We will inquire with our family home child care providers about the possibly adding additional childcare staff to increase the ratios within guidelines, we would offer incentives such as additional payments to our providers to help with fixed costs (utilities, gas, internet services) along with payments to their child care staff for their fixed costs at a lesser amount than child care provider payment.

We are advertising our program offering "Free Child Care Services to Essential Workers" as defined by the CCDF, and the benefits of obtaining a state license for daycare to the unlicensed childcare providers in our community. To hopefully obtain them as TCCP provider participants in the future once they have received proper qualifications. We're also advertising our relative child care provider option as well and may offer small monetary incentives. Advertising for the TCCP will be published in the Moody County Enterprise a weekly publication, Moody County Booster a weekly publication and the FSST Monthly Tribal Newsletter. The TCCP staff has sent mass email to all tribal/casino entities advertising "Free Child Care Services to Essential Workers", benefits of becoming a licensed child care provider and promoting our relative child care provider option. Along with visiting with the local IHS clinic, county hospital/clinic, and county/city law enforcement agencies to promote the TCCP and the CARES Act funding to help with the economic security for our essential employees.

We would like to explore how to enlist temporary or emergency providers without lowering our standards of high quality childcare, as of now our program has a problem with little to no interest in being a relative child care provider. We will continue to promote the relative childcare provider along with promoting non-traditional hours of child care services from our one family home child care provider whom offers evening and weekend care.

The TCCP staff has become quite efficient at the procurement and distribution of COVID19 health and sanitation products to providers. We are working with our FSST Procurement agent to send items to our TCCP offices rather than the FSST headquarters, to expedite products to child care providers.

The TCCP program oversees fund expenditures in office as well as with our Finance department, along with oversight from our Tribal Treasurer, Tribal Lawyer and our Procurement Agent. We also have agreements with our providers concerning some of the more costly items they have received from the TCCP using CARES ACT funds basically agreeing that such property will only be used in their business so long as they are program provider participants.

The TCCP program waived all co-pays as of February 4th, to help alleviate the economic burden from the ongoing COVID pandemic, we see this as only temporary and would like to plan for a new FPL sliding fee scale to better support native families during the COVID emergency.

The TCCP has supported our program providers with quality dollars by paying their tuition to obtain CDA degrees along with purchase of early learning developmental supplies and play activities.

Paying closed child care providers is a practice we would like to continue, we will follow the CDC New December 2020 Quarantine Guidelines obtained from State of South Dakota Department of Health.

The TCCP is accustomed to communication with our Family Home Child Care providers over phone, email, social media, text, video messages almost daily and will continue to do so although unlikely to solely monitor virtually.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Victoria Anderson

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Child Care Program Administrator

CCDF Plan Amendments

3.1.2 FSST TCCP has and will continue to provide cleaning supplies and professional deep cleaning services to our child care providers, FSST TCCP has advertised within our service area our ability and wiliness to provide cleaning supplies and deep cleaning services to state licensed child care providers not affiliated with the FSST TCCP or currently receiving CCDF funds.

4.1 (f) Will submit new sliding fee scale to the 2021 Federal Poverty Level by April 1st, 2021, to better support and provide high quality child care to low-income native families during this emergency.

5.1.5 (b) FSST TCCP IS A SMALL ALLOCATION TRIBE SECTION 5 IN PLAN NOT ENACTED; although provision is needed. Amendment to include *Essential Employees – health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers and grocery store workers*, as currently defined by the CCDF. Essential Employees are eligible for \$0.00 co-pays through the FSST TCCP regardless of income of Native American lineage. Also an added provision to the amendment is to include FSST/RRC gaming facility Essential Employees, as Essential Employees as defined by the CCDF. ONLY IF FSST Headquarters and RRC gaming facilities are closed due to the COVID19 pandemic with only “FSST Tribal & RRC Essential Employees” retained as minimal workforce that those workers should be considered Essential Employees as currently defined by CCDF. This would only be feasible and implemented if we are able to retain additional child care providers IF our tribal community is forced to implement shut a down due to COVID-19.

6.3.5 FSST TCCP IS A SMALL ALLOCATION TRIBE SECTION 6 IN PLAN NOT ENACTED; although provision is needed FSST TCCP has taken steps with the FSST Finance Department to ensure child care providers and their staff to be able to receive CARES ACT funds to promote the economic stability for child care providers during the COVID19 pandemic. Also if child care providers close temporary due to potential or exposure to COVID19 child care providers are to use a portion of funds for staff wages.

6.4.2 FSST TCCP IS A SMALL ALLOCATION TRIBE SECTION 6 IN PLAN NOT INACTED; although provision is needed due to paying child care provider based on enrollment rather than attendance. TCCP child care providers whom receive payments for same child, during same time period, so that the child care providers each only receive a half day rate payments per child during same time period. Not to be in excess of two (2) calendar days, this is only done to ensure our low-income native families receives child care continually to not risk job loss. This only applies for NON-COVID related provider leave, and should be agreed upon by both child care providers within a reasonable amount of time.

Furthermore continuing the practice of paying TCCP providers whom closes due to possible COVID-19 exposure, such as if a child is experiencing symptoms that may be COVID-19 related, and the provider chooses to close until such time that the child/provider/guardian/household member proves to be COVID-19 negative. All children enrolled with a child care provider whom closes due to possible COVID-19 exposure are to be quarantined/isolated from other child care provider’s family homes. So to not increase the possibility of additional COVID 19 virus spread within the community.

CCDF Waiver to Amendments

2.1 (98.42(c)) Expand relative providers as defined by grandparents, great grandparents, siblings residing in separate residence, aunts and uncles to include other extended family members such as cousins.

5.4.1 (a) 98.45(b)(5)and 98.4 (k) FSST TCCP IS A SMALL ALLOCATION TRIBE SECTION 5 IN PLAN NOT INACTED; As of February 4th, 2021 the FSST TCCP waived all co-pays for CCDF program participants to help alleviate the economic burden from the economic burden from the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. We see this as only a temporary although needed to lower the financial stress that families are experiencing during this emergency. FSST TCCP will submit new sliding fee scale to the 2020-2021 Federal Poverty Level, by April 1st, 2021 as mentioned in 4.1. (f).



WORKING DRAFT Plan for: DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS (PRA-1)

CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND - Plan Period: 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2022

APPENDIX 2

Table: Amendment Log

Tribal Lead Agency: Flandreau Santee Sioux

Section Amended	Proposed Effective Date	Grantee Signature and Date Submitted to ACF	ACF Approving Official's Signature and Date
3.1.2	2.25.21	/s/ 2.25.21	Date: _____
4.1	4.1.21	/s/ 2.25.21	
5.1.5 (b)	2.25.21	/s/ 2.25.21	
6.3.5	2.25.21	2.25.21	
6.4.2	2.25.21	/s/ 2.25.21	
2.1 98.42c	2.25.21	/s/ 2.25.21	
5.4.1a 98.45	2.4.21	/s/ 2.25.21	

CCDF Plan Effective Date: October X, 201X

Amended Effective Date: [Insert Date as Amended].